



SACHI A. HAMAI
Interim Chief Executive Officer

County of Los Angeles

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Board of Supervisors
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MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

SHEILA KUEHL
Third District

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Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

June 15, 2015

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe

From Sachi A. Hamai
Interim Chief Executive Officer

FUNDING PROGRAMS FOR CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

On April 14, 2015, your Board approved a motion introduced by Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Hilda Solis related to the use of the Healthier Communities, Stronger Families, Thriving Children (HST) funds and Commercially, Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC). CSEC are children and youth who have been forced into the sex industry.

The Board's motion instructed the Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to report back during the June Budget Deliberations on the transfer of \$6,738,000 of HST funds from the CEO budget to the Provisional Financing Uses (PFU) budget. The Board further instructed the Interim CEO to work with the Chief of Probation and the Directors of the Departments of Children and Family Services, Health Services, Mental Health, and Public Social Services to report back in writing in 30 days related to:

1. The feasibility of using HST funds to offset the \$300,000 budgeted in ongoing net County cost related to the Success Through Achievement and Resilience (STAR) Court Program;
2. Other services, programming, interventions and recovery solutions for sexually exploited children that can be funded with this funding source including a prospective dependency specialty court program to serve "at-risk" and foster care youth that are involved in, or at-risk of, commercial sexual exploitation to decrease the likelihood of any involvement with the criminal justice system; and

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3. Recommendations for dedicated staffing and evaluation tools and resources that track the magnitude of sexually exploited children within the County of Los Angeles and an assessment of the outcomes of the services rendered to this population including the impact of the STAR Court Program.

On May 12, 2015, the Board extended the report submission date to June 15, 2015.

Also on May 12, 2015, the Board adopted a motion introduced by Supervisors Hilda Solis and Don Knabe directing DCFS and DMH, in concert with other departments, to report back in 90 days on the feasibility of developing a safe facility to specifically serve CSEC youth. The motion further directed these departments to “explore broader plans that define appropriate treatment options by utilizing \$6,700,000” in HST Funds. This report, due on August 12, 2015, will be provided by DCFS, Probation and others.

Finally, on May 19, 2015, the Board adopted a motion introduced by Supervisor Don Knabe instructing the Interim Chief Executive Office to identify \$250,000 for continued CSEC identification and awareness training and include the amount in Probation’s budget during Final Changes.

Current Budget Actions

In response to the Board’s April 14 and May 19, 2015 motions, the Interim CEO has taken the following actions in the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Final Changes budget:

- \$250,000 of the \$6,738,000 in HST funding has been included in Probation’s budget on a one-time basis for CSEC identification and awareness training.
- The remaining \$6,488,000 in HST funding has been moved from the CEO’s Budget to the Provisional Financing Uses (PFU) Budget. Once the transfer of funds becomes effective July 1, 2015, these funds can only be moved from the PFU based on direction from your Board.

Draft Report on CSEC Funding Proposals

In response to the April 14 and May 19, 2015 motions, the CEO has completed a draft report discussing ten proposed programs, services, tools, and interventions to serve CSEC youth that could be funded by HST funds. The proposal concepts range from advocacy services, to court programs, to development of a safe facility to keep CSEC safe. The HST funds could cover some, but not all, proposals for several fiscal years, after which permanent funding will have to be identified.

A discussion item related to this report was placed on the Board’s June 16, 2015, agenda. However, the item was continued to June 30, 2015.

The draft CEO report has been circulated to the Children's Deputy in each Board Office. We anticipate discussing this report in an upcoming Board deputy briefing, and finalizing the report before the Board's June 30, 2015 meeting. At that Board meeting, the proposed programs, services and interventions for CSEC youth will be discussed.

If you have any questions, please contact Fesia Davenport at (213) 974-1186 or by email at fdavenport@ceo.lacounty.gov, or Cheri Thomas at (213) 974-4603 or by email at cthomas@ceo.lacounty.gov.

SAH:JJ:FD:CT:yjf

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Children and Family Services
County Counsel
Health Services
Mental Health
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Probation

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